

REMARKS

Claims 34-49, including independent claim 34 is currently pending in the present application. Independent claim 34, for instance, is directed to a package comprising a paper product and a packaging material that encloses the paper product so that a headspace is defined therebetween. The package also contains metal modified nanoparticles having an effective particle diameter of less than about 500 nanometers. The metal modified nanoparticles are configured to neutralize gaseous or odorous compounds within the headspace. As a result of the claimed invention, odors and other undesired gases may be removed from the headspace of, for instance, bathroom tissue and paper towel products.

In the Office Action, independent claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,204,111 to Handjani, et al. Handjani, et al. is directed to a process for producing alginate capsules by slowly introducing an aqueous solution of at least one alginate into an aqueous solution of at least one polyvalent metal salt (e.g., calcium chloride). Once formed by gelification, the alginate capsules are then extracted or removed from the salt solution. (See e.g., Cols. 1-2). Handjani, et al. indicates that the aqueous alginate solution may also contain certain cosmetic additives or active agents. Among a numerous laundry list of possible active agents, Handjani, et al. indicates that nanoparticles or nanocapsules may be employed.

Despite cursorily mentioning the potential use of nanoparticles as an active agent, however, Handjani, et al. fails to disclose various limitations of the present claims. Nowhere does Handjani, et al. disclose, for instance, that the nanoparticles are “modified” with a metal as required by the present claims. In one embodiment of the

present invention, for instance, a metal ion is "adsorbed" onto the nanoparticles due to differences in electric potential. In another embodiment, the metal is bonded to the nanoparticles to form a "coordinate" and/or "covalent bond." In stark contrast, the polyvalent metal ions of Handjani, et al. are used only to crosslink the *mannuronic units and guloronic units of the aliginate*. Handjani, et al. completely fails to disclose or suggest, however, the modification (e.g., adsorption, covalent bonding, coordinate bonding, etc.) of *nanoparticles* with the metal ions.

In any event, Handjani, et al. completely fails to disclose a *packaging material* that encloses a *paper product* (e.g., tissue product or paper towel) as required by independent claim 34. To the contrary, Handjani, et al. is specifically directed to a *cosmetic composition containing alginate capsules*. Clearly, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that an "alginate capsule" for use in cosmetic products is not a "paper product." Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 34 patentably defines over Handjani, et al.

Applicants also respectfully submit that, at least for the reasons indicated above, the dependent claims also patentably define over the reference(s) cited. The patentability of the dependent claims, however, certainly does not hinge on the patentability of the independent claims. Dependent claims 46-49, for instance, are specifically directed to aspects of the "paper product." These aspects are clearly not disclosed in Handjani, et al.

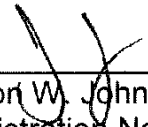
Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and, therefore, request favorable reconsideration and allowance. However, Examiner Aughenbaugh is invited and

encouraged to telephone the undersigned, should any issues remain after consideration of this Response.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Response to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully requested,

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